/25 cont'd/

3. Hunting

224 411 Living deep in the mountains, the Miao people are the companions of birds and animals. In their leisure time, therefore, the men usually go out hunting. The principal weapon is the musket and gunpowder, which are imported by Chinese merchants. The gun is of the same type used by the Chinese. Only the leather [41 5 powder bag is made by themselves. The bow used by the Miao ● 28] people is also an efficient weapon for hunting. It is made of wood, and the string is made of hemp. Iron arrowheads are used for hunting large animals, bamboo ones for birds. It is said that they have [278] a virulent poison which is made of a mixture of leaves of certain plants, gall of poisonous snakes, and other such things. Any beast shot by these poisoned arrows will die immediately without shedding a drop of blood. The poisoned arrows are always firmly sealed in tubes which are not opened until just before use. If they are exposed to the air for a longer period, the poison would be dissipated by exposure and the arrows cannot kill the animals. There are also 278 certain drugs to be used as antidotes to the poison. /26/ If a man 752 is shot by mistake, he can be cured by taking a drug which is said to be made from wine dregs. After being buried in the ground for a few years, the moisture in the dregs is completely evaporated, and it becomes a hard lump. If a victim of a poisoned arrow swallows a piece of this, the poison is immediately neutralized.

224 171 In the Miao mountains, one may encounter the Miao in small groups of three to five with guns or bows in hand looking for birds and animals. They are all good shots who hardly miss. This skill can never be matched by the Li people.

4. Animal Husbandry

231 As far as the geographic environment is concerned, the Miao area is very suitable for animal husbandry. But in fact herding is not very popular among the Miao. We can hardly find a family among the Miao which owns a herd of several tens or perhaps several hundreds of mountain cattle, as is the case among the Li.

224 Many of the Miao are skilled hunters and they
411 will track animals with a keenness similar to that of an American Red Indian. The wild boar is hunted on foot, and when he charges is knifed with consummate dexterity. The deer is surrounded and chased from point to point until it is exhausted, the dogs entering with zest into the hunt. Pheasants are decoyed, and animals shot with a cross-bow and arrows. Sometimes the arrows are poisoned with a product derived from deadly nightshade.

415 The arts of Miao life are few, their implements for daily use being copied from the Chinese. For
361 mutual protection they live in hamlets or villages,
342 and their houses are mud built and thatched with grass.

342 Let us go into one of these—it is not without
231 interest. You will notice there are two rooms.
281 In the inner room a cow, a few goats and sheep and perhaps a pig are stabled. The cow is needed for ploughing, and the manure for their somewhat barren farm land. From the sheep's wool, capes and sleeping-rugs are woven. Skins from the goats serve as winter jackets for the older men. Morning and evening these cattle pass through the living-room to and from their grazing-grounds.

342 The living-room is a most extraordinary apartment, since it serves as kitchen, dining-room, guest chamber and, when night comes, as bedroom.

354 In the centre of the earthen floor a coal or wood fire burns, and if the wood be damp your eyes will smart and sting, since the only outlet for the smoke
352 is the door or the roof. Near the fire are a few

/368 cont./

231 [262] [782] [184] Goats are likewise kept for meat and as sacrificial animals, but only sporadically.

Just as the farming of the Meau in Indochina is incomparably more productive than among the Meau in Thailand, so also does the animal husbandry there represent an essentially broader economic base for them. This is shown by the description that Savina (2) gives concerning this in Indochina: "The

2. II, p. 200.

Meau raise buffalo, cattle, horses, pigs, goats, sheep, chickens, ducks, and geese. The livestock is their sole [556] [276] [432] wealth; it is more valuable than money. Opium and livestock are the only things that they sell. As has been said, the cattle live freely outside in the mountains. Since they often remain away for weeks and months, the owners only rarely know how many animals they have. In the evening the cattle herd together to defend themselves against tigers. When they scent a tiger, the larger animals place themselves around the smaller ones and courageously await the enemy. At least so the Meau tell it. They very much like to praise their animals. There are families who own forty or fifty head of cattle. If all these animals were divided among all the families, each [281] [434] family would have twelve head. The hides of the slaughtered animals are dried and sold on the market.

"Horses are the usual companions of the buffalo and cattle in /369/ the pastures, but they are less wild. Every evening, they return to the village, and if they do not come by themselves, one searches for them with two ears of maize. One is given to them at the place where they are found, and with the other they are lured into the village. Buffalo and cattle are brought back with a piece of salt. This is only a matter of vilgum pecus, that is, pack horses; the good saddle [492] horses are only seldom left free; they are provided for in the stable or in a corner of the house, and their mangers are rarely [432] empty. The Meau never sell them.

/405 cont./

386 batik pen exactly opposite the way that we hold our pens (Ill. 531 86).[1] She begins at the edges of the piece of material to draw the border, then the middle lines follow, and finally the areas between the border and the middle lines are filled in. After the wax drawing is completed, the dipping of the piece of material into the dyeing trough is begun and continued until the areas left free of wax are dyed dark blue. Now the cloth is boiled in water, which removes the wax, and the places previously covered with it, which of course were not dyed, now appear white or light blue.—Fabrics are produced for the purpose of making clothing; carrying [415] bags made of cloth are rather rare among the Meau since plaited baskets primarily serve for this.

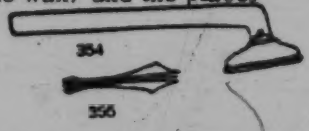

Fig. 354. Batik instrument of the Meau, 1/4 nat. size.

Fig. 355. Tripartite Batik Pen, viewed from below, 1/2 nat. size.

[413]

281 The dressing of leather is unknown to the Meau, although [513] hides scraped clean on the inside and dried in the sun are [411] sometimes used as sleeping mats or to cover wooden sheaths for [262] knives and cut into strips for straps. The hair is always left on the skin. Since, however, hides are preferably eaten, indeed as special delicacies, after suitable preparation (see the chapter, Food and Stimulants," the section, "Food"), such "skins" are very rarely seen in the houses of the Meau.

322 On the other hand, the Meau are masters at woodworking, 412 although they have relatively few and only simple tools at their [177] disposal. The use of wood saws is unknown to the Meau who are not extensively Sinicized; only the ax /406/ (see the chapter, "Means of Subsistence," Fig. 273), chisel (Figs. 356 and 357), and wooden and iron wedges are available to them. Two kinds of iron chisels are used: a flat chisel (Fig. 357), and a hollow chisel (Fig. 356). For drilling holes, iron awls (Fig. 358) or very ingenious drills (Ill. 83[2] and Fig. 361) are used. For

[1] [See cat 116, p620- ANALYST]
[2] [" " " p597- "]